

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. A method for approximating the maturity of a company in view of at least one maturity model comprising:
  - establishing generalized work products;
  - relating individual requirements of the at least one maturity model to the generalized work products;
  - providing company-specific work products;
  - associating at least some of the company-specific work products with at least some of the generalized work products,
  - tracing the company-specific work products to the individual requirements of the at least one maturity model through the association of the at least some company-specific work products with at least some the generalized work products; and
  - providing an indicator of the approximate maturity of the company in view of the at least one maturity model.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the maturity of the company is approximated in view of at least two maturity models, where in the individual requirements of the at least two maturity models are related to the generalized work products.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one maturity model includes multiple levels of maturity.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the indicator of the approximate maturity is indicative of the highest of the multiple levels of maturity attained by the company.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the indicator of approximate maturity is a percentage.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the indicator of approximate maturity is provided in a report and the report includes a list of the individual requirements of the at least one maturity model that were not traceable to at least one of the company-specific work products.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein report further includes a list of company-specific work products that were not associated with the generalized work products.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the indicator of approximate maturity is a percentage.

9. A method for using a maturity tracing system in order to determine the approximate maturity level of an organization in view of at least one maturity model comprising:

entering data indicative of organization-specific work products into the maturity tracing system through a user interface;

associating at least some of the organization-specific work products with at least some of the pre-existing generalized work products provided on the maturity tracing system through the user interface;

requesting the tracing of the organization-specific work products to maturity requirements for the at least one maturity model through the user interface, wherein the maturity tracing system includes at least one application for relating the pre-existing generalized work products to the maturity requirements for the at least one maturity model; and

requesting a report indicating the approximate maturity level of the organization in view of at least one maturity model through the user interface.

10. The method according to claim 9, further including

querying text indicative of at least one of the pre-existing generalized work products and the maturity requirements for the at least one maturity model in order to ascertain description information therefore.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the description information is provided in a pop-up window on the user interface.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the description information is provided through a hyperlink to an information screen on the user interface.

13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the user interface is a computer comprising a processor, data input means and data viewing means.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the maturity of the organization is approximated in view of at least two maturity models.

15. A system for approximating the maturity of a company in view of at least one maturity model comprising:

means for storing data representative of generalized work products, data representative of individual requirements for the at least one maturity model and data representative of the company-specific work products;

at least one relationship database for relating the data representative of generalized work products to the data representative of individual requirements for the at least one maturity model;

an application for prompting the association of the data representative of the company-specific work products to the data representative of generalized work products;

an application for tracing the data representative of the company-specific work products to the data representative of individual requirements for the at least one maturity model; and

an application for providing an indicator of the approximate maturity of the company in view of the at least one maturity model.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein the system approximates the maturity of the company in view of at least two maturity models.

17. The system according to claim 15, further comprising a user interface for collecting the data, wherein the user interface comprises a processor, data input means and data viewing means.

18. The system according to claim 17, wherein the data input means includes at least one of a keyboard, a network connection, and a port.